

James A. Baker to sign in soon on new \$5 notes

By Roger Boye

Paper money depicting series 1985 and the signature of Treasury Secretary James A. Baker should begin appearing in circulation by early summer, judging from government printing schedules.

Federal workers will make the change on \$1 Federal Reserve notes this month and on bills of other denominations before mid autumn, according to a Treasury spokesman. Currently, Uncle Sam is phasing out production of series 1981A bills with the signature of former Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan.

Under long-standing practice, the series year is revised with each change of signature or bill design. The last adjustment—to series 1981A from series 1981—was made in late 1983 after U.S. Treasurer Katherine Davalos Ortega took office. Her autograph will remain the same on series 1985 bills.

By early next year, Baker's signature will have appeared on 6.2 billion pieces of currency with a face value of \$67 billion.

● The American Numismatic Association again will award several scholarships to persons between ages 11 and 17 to attend a one-week summer seminar in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The young hobbyists will study subjects such as coin grading or detecting counterfeits. Scholarships pay for room and board, tuition and round-trip airfare to Colorado for the July 7-13 seminar.

For application forms, write to Florence Schook, vice president of the American Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 2014, Livonia, Mich. 48154. Deadline for completed applications is May 10.

● Thirty-five dealers will do business from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the national convention of the Early American Coppers Club. Members specialize in coins from Colonial America, old U.S. half-cents and large cents, and tokens minted in the 1830s.

Admission is free to the sales area in the Ramada Hotel O'Hare, 6600 N. Mannheim Rd., Rosemont. Four experts will conduct a free educational forum at 7 p.m. Friday in the hotel.

● The British Royal Mint is offering collectors sets of 1985-dated coins, the first to feature a new portrait of Queen Elizabeth II.

Prices range from \$8.75 for a set of seven coins [one pence through one pound] in uncirculated condition to \$39.75 for a seven-coin proof set in a leather wallet. For more information, call the mint's New York office at 800-221-1215.